CHRONOGEAR

KAZUMASA TAKAYAMA

DARK HORSE COMICS

Manga

CHRONOWAR
6 OF 9

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CHRONOWAR

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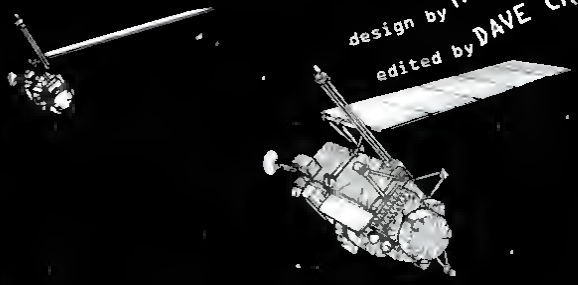

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English version produced by
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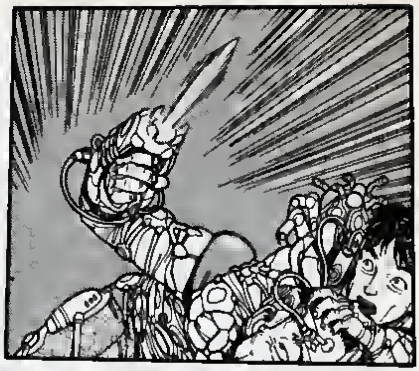
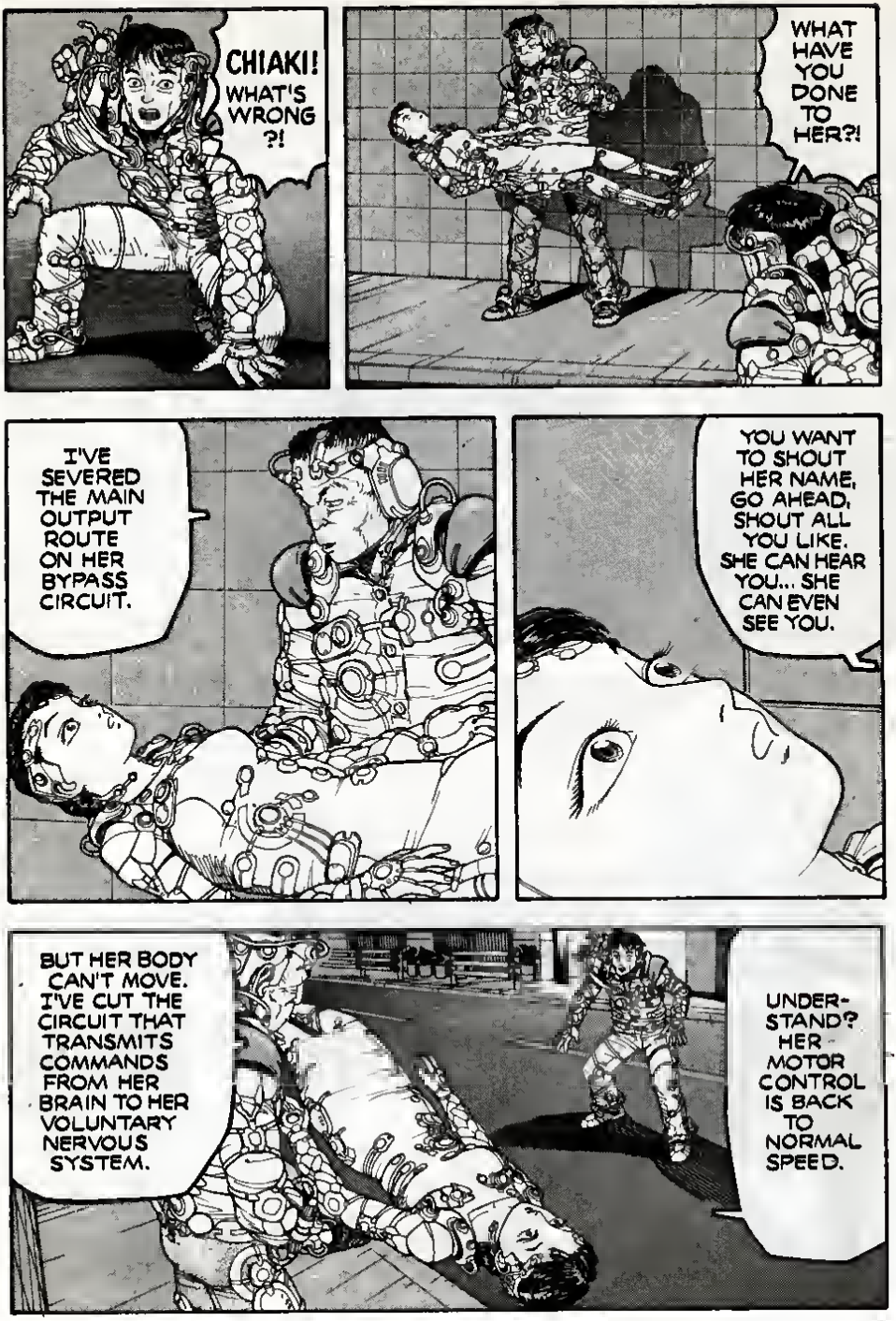
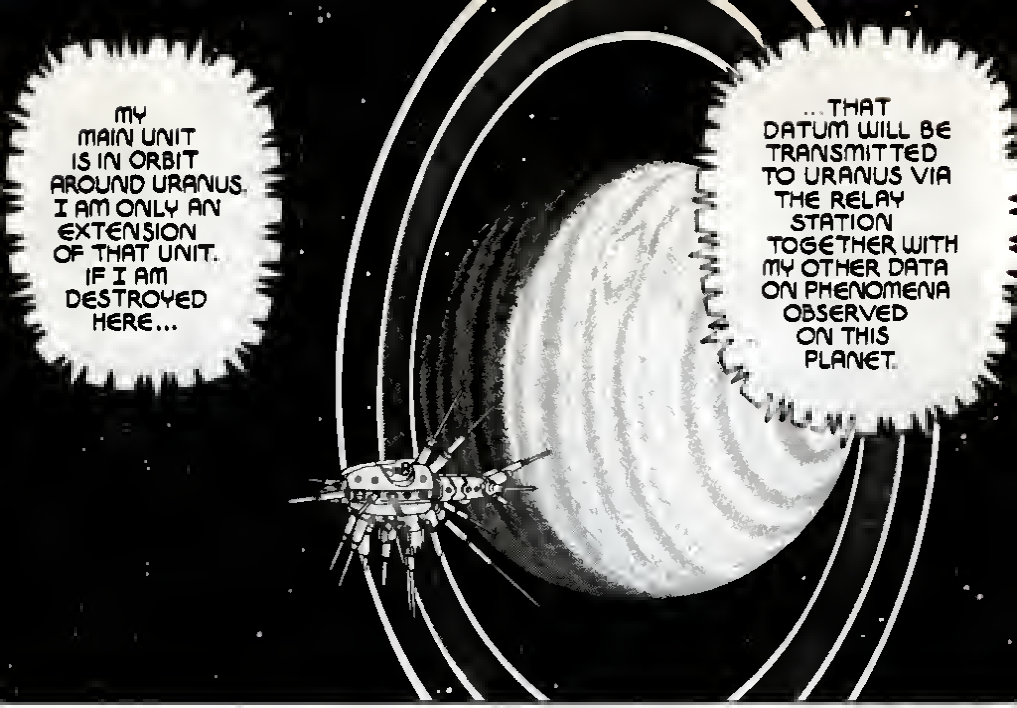
GET AWAY!
NOW !!


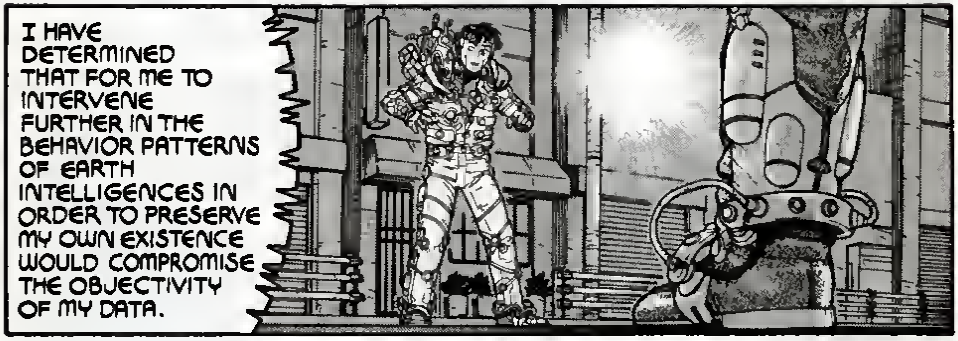
HERE !!
AH--

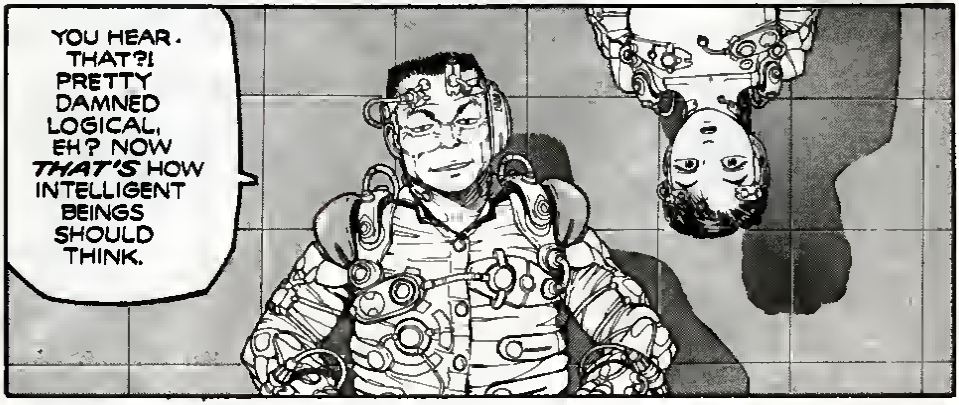

CHIAKI! WHAT'S WRONG ?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?!
I'VE SEVERED THE MAIN OUTPUT ROUTE ON HER BYPASS CIRCUIT.
YOU WANT TO SHOUT HER NAME, GO AHEAD, SHOUT ALL YOU LIKE. SHE CAN HEAR YOU... SHE CAN EVEN SEE YOU.
BUT HER BODY CAN'T MOVE. I'VE CUT THE CIRCUIT THAT TRANSMITS COMMANDS FROM HER BRAIN TO HER VOLUNTARY NERVOUS SYSTEM.
UNDER-STAND? HER MOTOR CONTROL IS BACK TO NORMAL SPEED.

SO... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? THE GIRL'S A MEAT PUPPET-- YOU CAN DO ANYTHING TO HER YOU WANT.
AND THE INPUT ROUTE FEEDING SENSATION FROM HER PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM TO THE BRAIN IS WORKING FINE.
TOUCH HER IN THE RIGHT PLACES, AND YOU'LL MAKE HER FEEL *REAL* GOOD...
NO! STOP!!

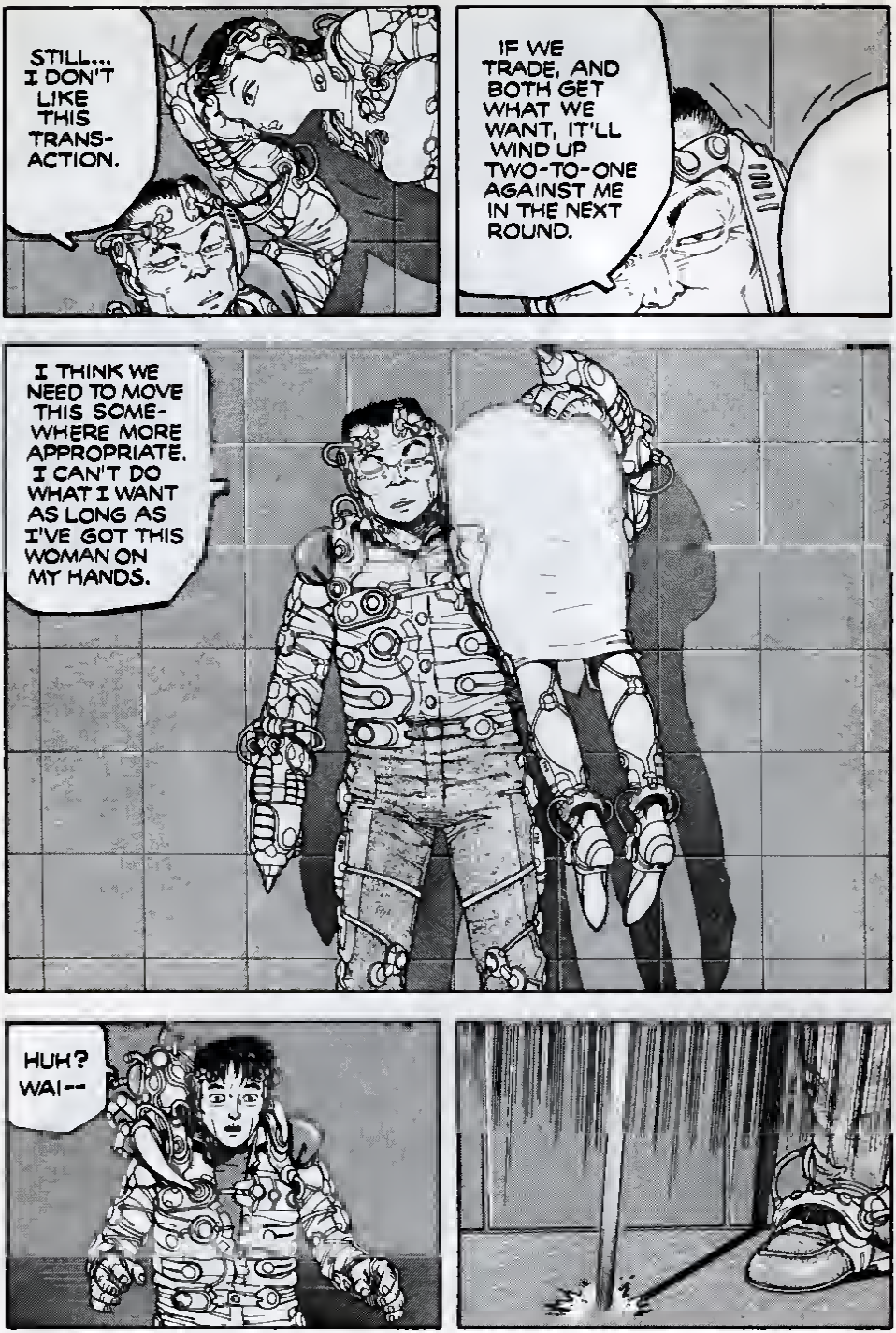
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE, YOU KNOW. I SAW ALL THAT STUFF IN YOUR HEAD ABOUT THIS WOMAN.
I'M JUST DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
OHZUN! DID YOU HEAR THAT?! USE YOUR POWER TO CUT HIS BYPASS CIRCUIT!
Huh... DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH. HE'S JUST OBSERVING US. HE WANTS TO SEE HOW WE TICK, eh?
RIGHT OR WRONG... DOESN'T MEAN A DAMN THING TO HIM.
OHZUN, THIS IS CRAZY! IF WE KILL EACH OTHER, IT MEANS THE BYPASS CIRCUITS YOU MADE WILL GET BROKEN!
AND WHAT IF YOU WIND UP GETTING KILLED? THEN WHAT?!

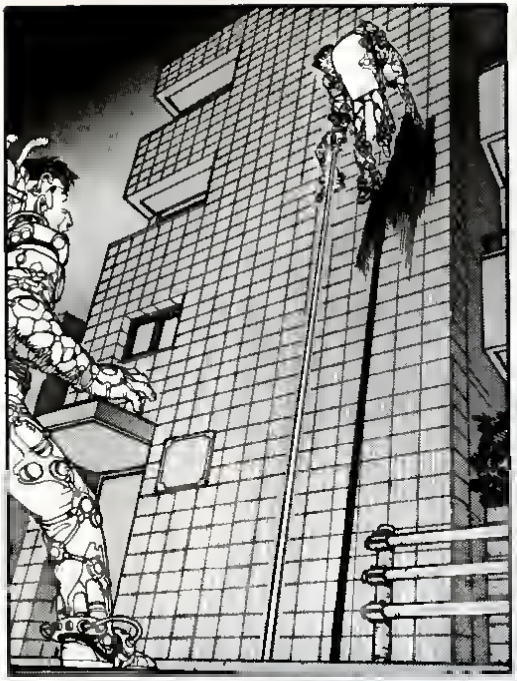

MY MAIN UNIT IS IN ORBIT AROUND URANUS. I AM ONLY AN EXTENSION OF THAT UNIT. IF I AM DESTROYED HERE...
...THAT DATUM WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO URANUS VIA THE RELAY STATION TOGETHER WITH MY OTHER DATA ON PHENOMENA OBSERVED ON THIS PLANET.

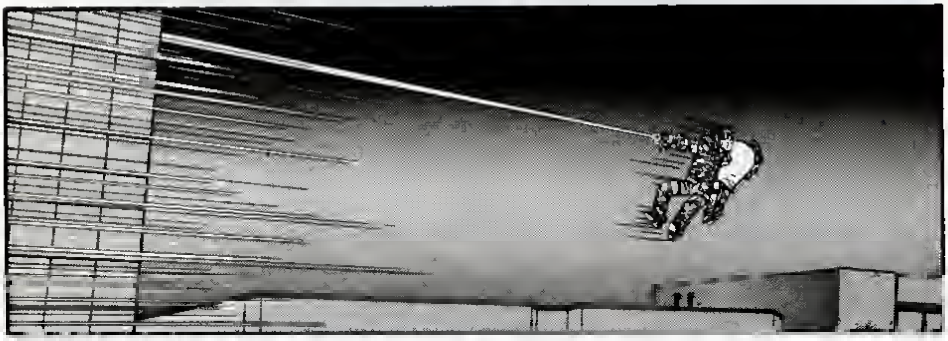

I HAVE DETERMINED THAT FOR ME TO INTERVENE FURTHER IN THE BEHAVIOR PATTERNS OF EARTH INTELLIGENCES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE MY OWN EXISTENCE WOULD COMPROMISE THE OBJECTIVITY OF MY DATA.


YOU HEAR. THAT?! PRETTY DAMNED LOGICAL, EH? NOW *THAT'S* HOW INTELLIGENT BEINGS SHOULD THINK.

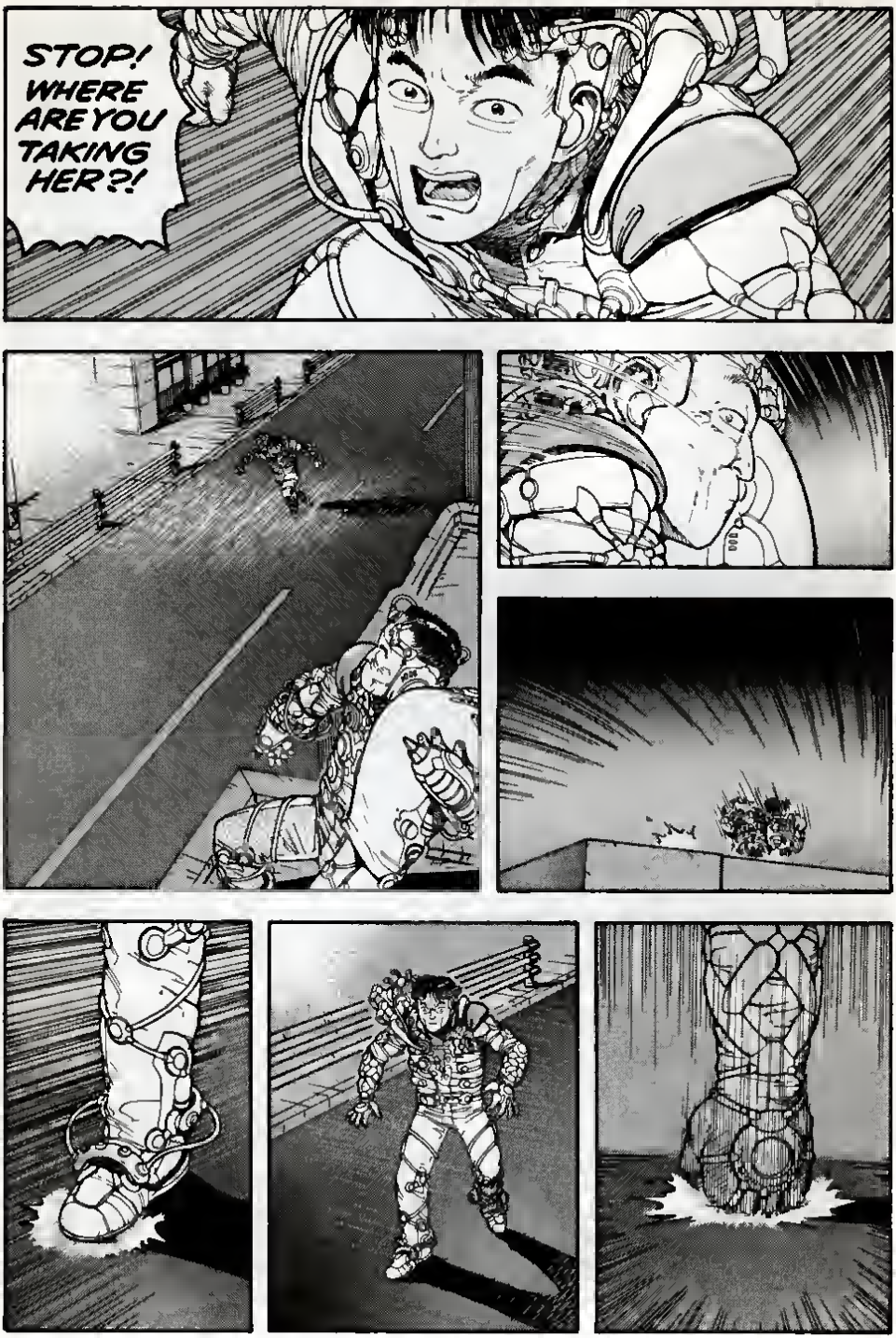
I SEE... THEN, THAT MEANS...
...THAT MEANS YOU WON'T STOP ME IF I DESTROY YOU!
WHAT?!
HE CAN'T TRANSMIT DATA TO HIS WAY STATION WITH BYPASS CIRCUITRY ALONE--THE TRANSMITTER IS SITTING HERE ON MY BACK!
IF YOU DON'T LET HER GO, I'LL SMASH THE TRANS-MITTER!
AND IF I DO THAT, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SEND THAT ORDER OF YOURS TO BUILD A MACHINE CIVILIZATION ON EARTH?
Hmm... VERY GOOD. YOU'RE NOT THE COMPLETE IDIOT I THOUGHT YOU WERE.

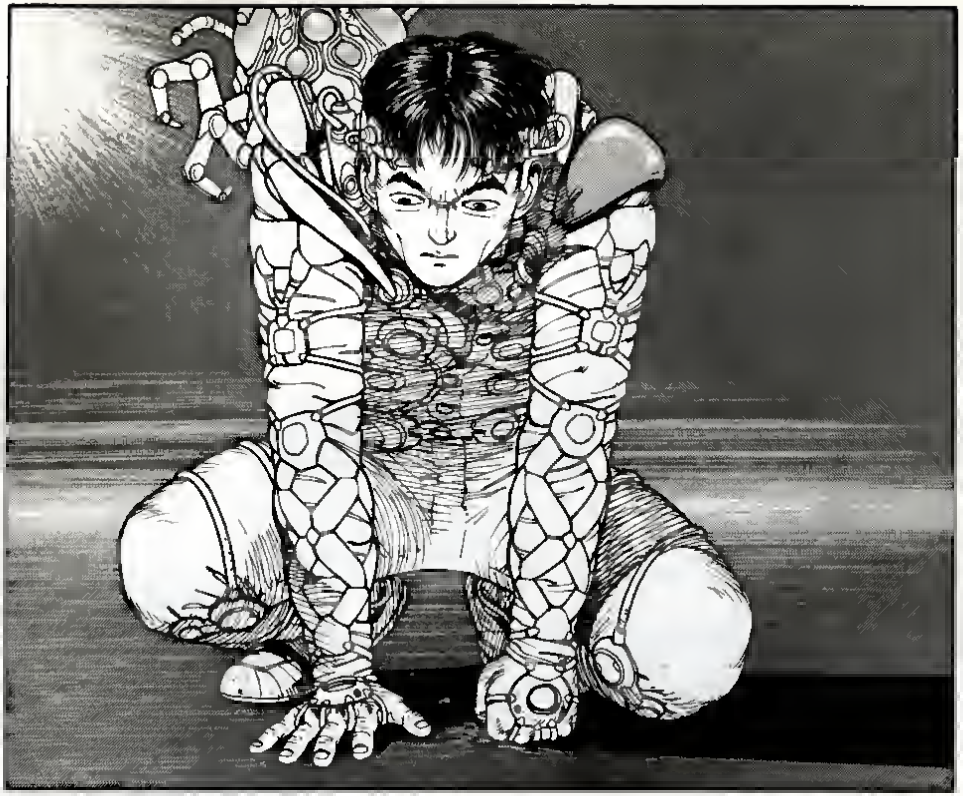

STILL... I DON'T LIKE THIS TRANS-ACTION.
IF WE TRADE, AND BOTH GET WHAT WE WANT, IT'LL WIND UP TWO-TO-ONE AGAINST ME IN THE NEXT ROUND.
I THINK WE NEED TO MOVE THIS SOME-WHERE MORE APPROPRIATE. I CAN'T DO WHAT I WANT AS LONG AS I'VE GOT THIS WOMAN ON MY HANDS.
HUH? WAI--



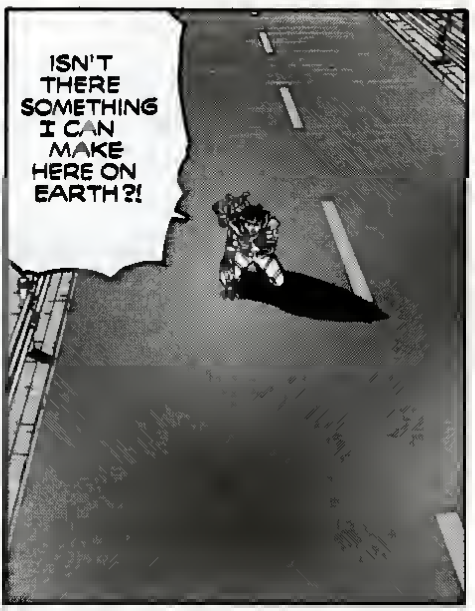


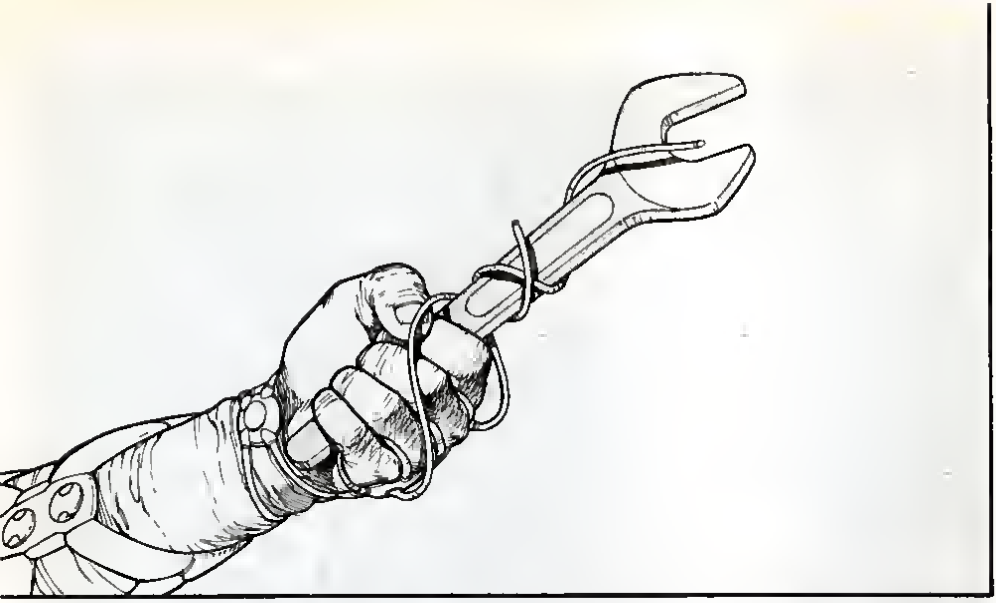
WHEN I'VE FOUND THE RIGHT PLACE, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

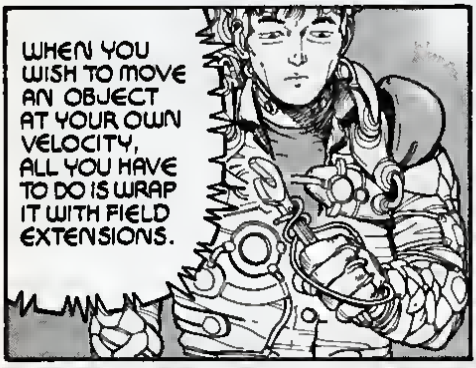

STOP! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HER?!

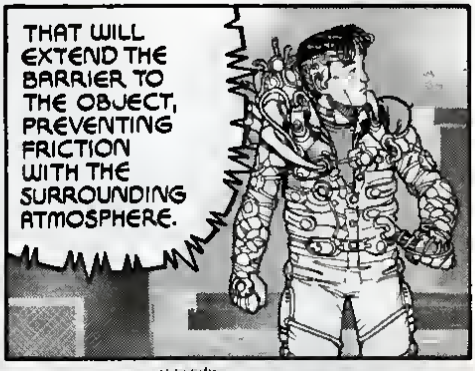


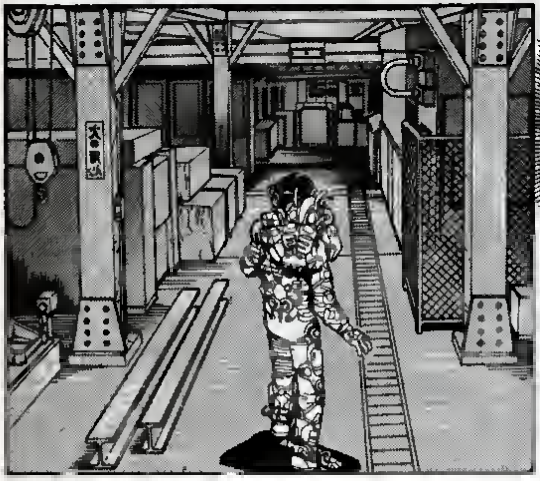
OHZUN! GIVE ME A WEAPON-- ANY KIND OF WEAPON!


ISN'T THERE SOMETHING I CAN MAKE HERE ON EARTH?!



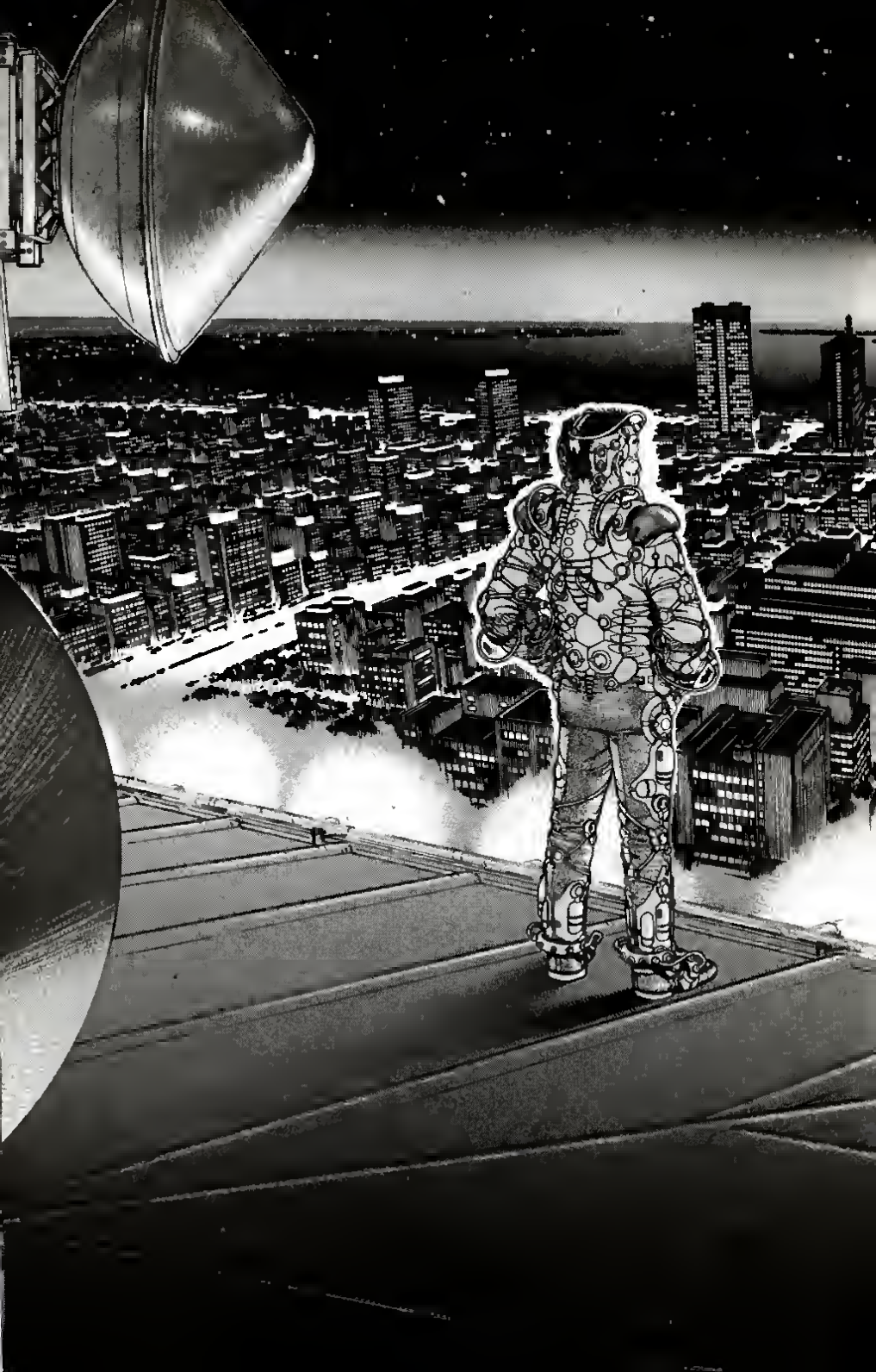

WHEN YOU WISH TO MOVE AN OBJECT AT YOUR OWN VELOCITY, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WRAP IT WITH FIELD EXTENSIONS.

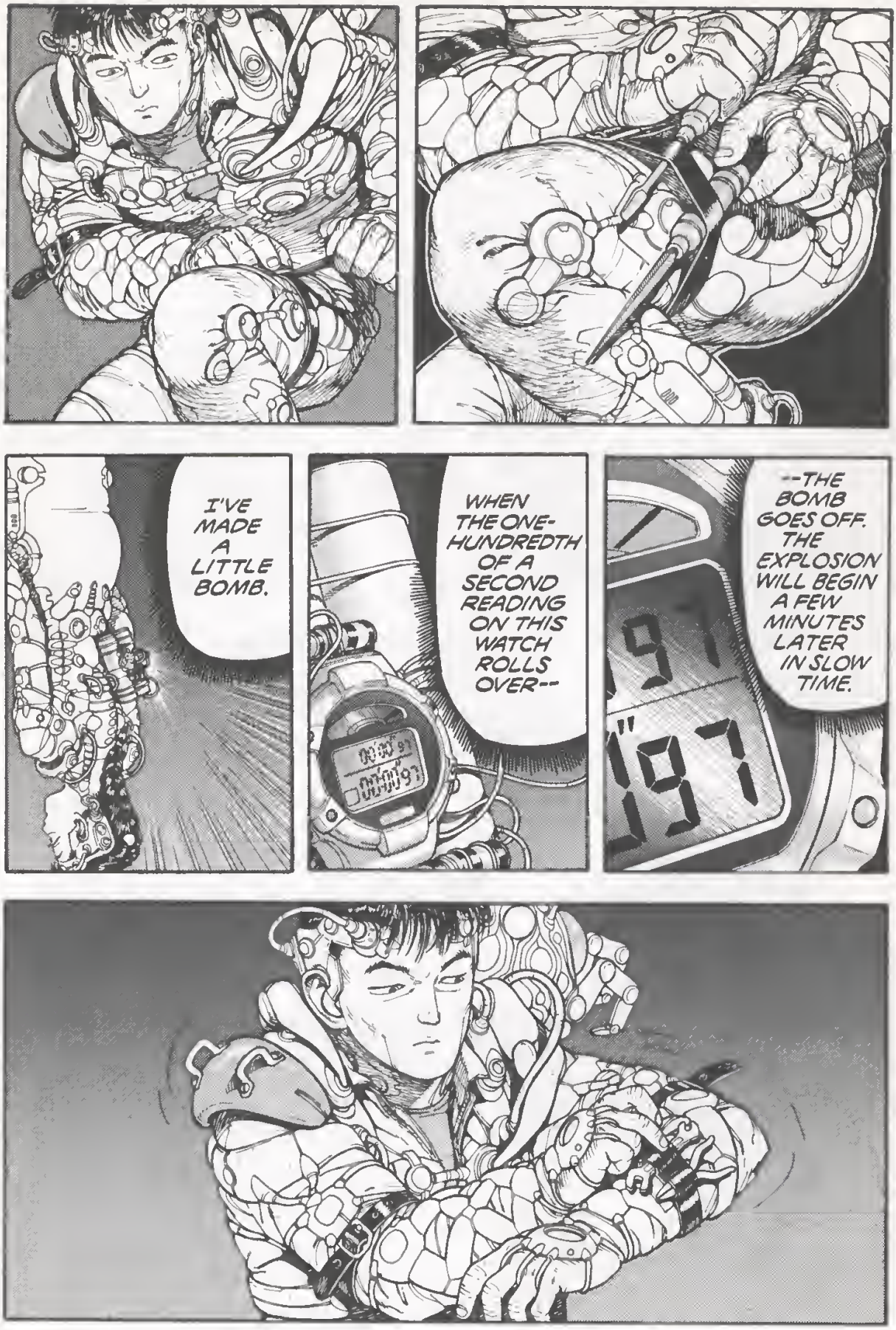

THAT WILL EXTEND THE BARRIER TO THE OBJECT, PREVENTING FRICTION WITH THE SURROUNDING ATMOSPHERE.

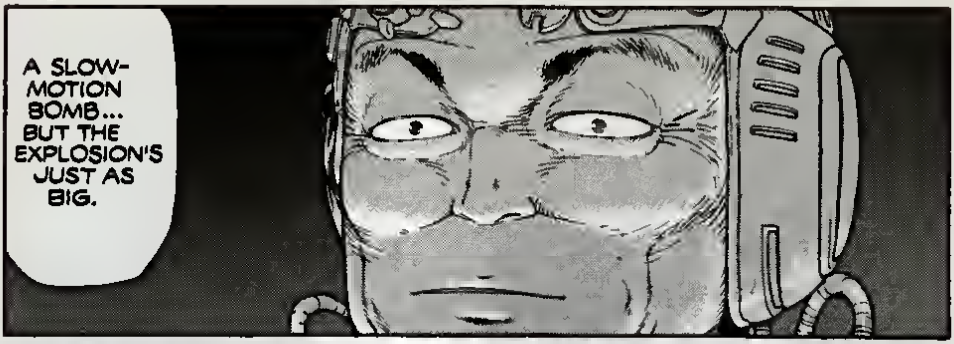


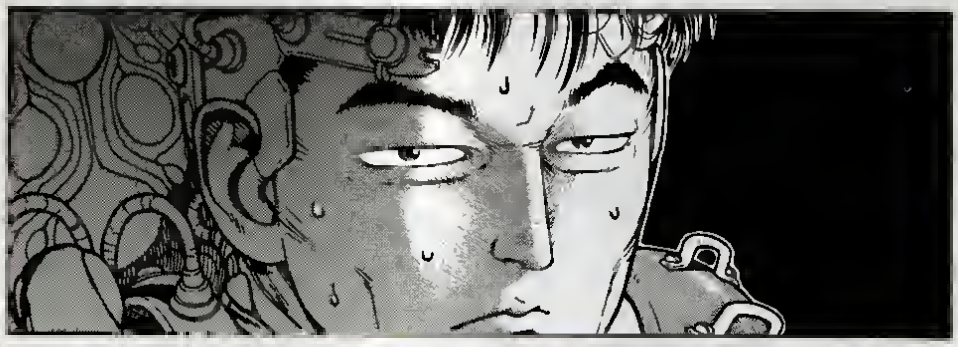
MACHIDA! CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'M READY FOR YOU NOW!

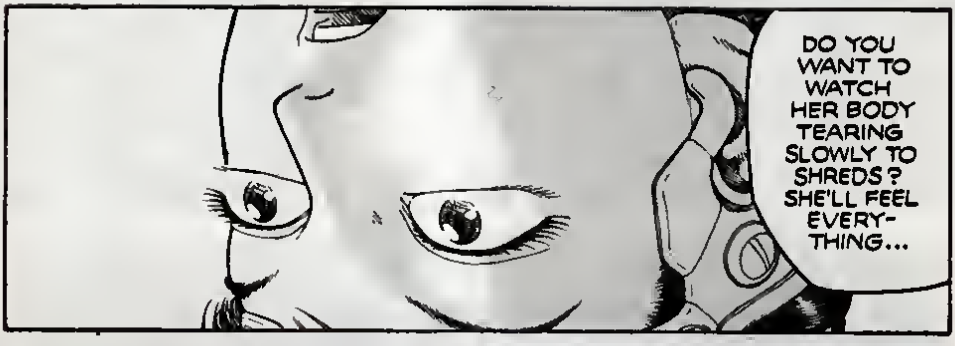
CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE I AM?
東京都

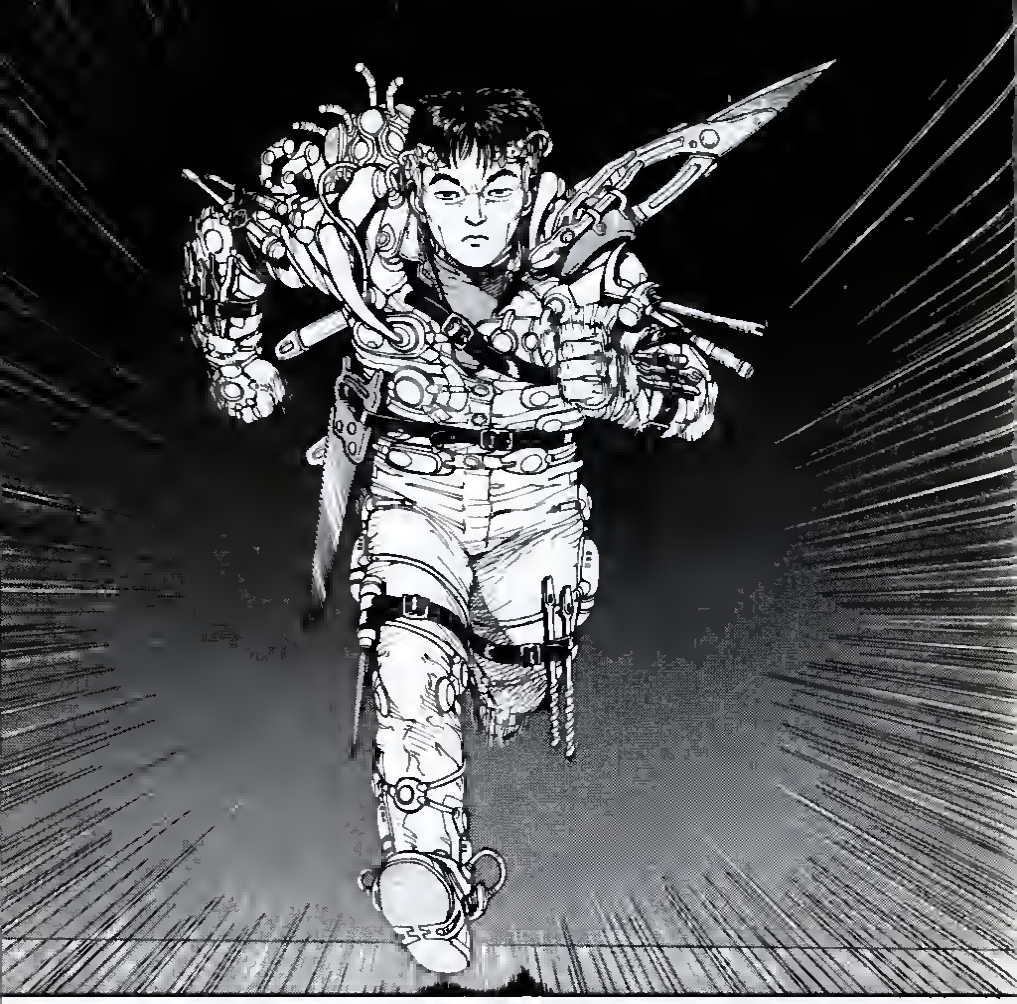


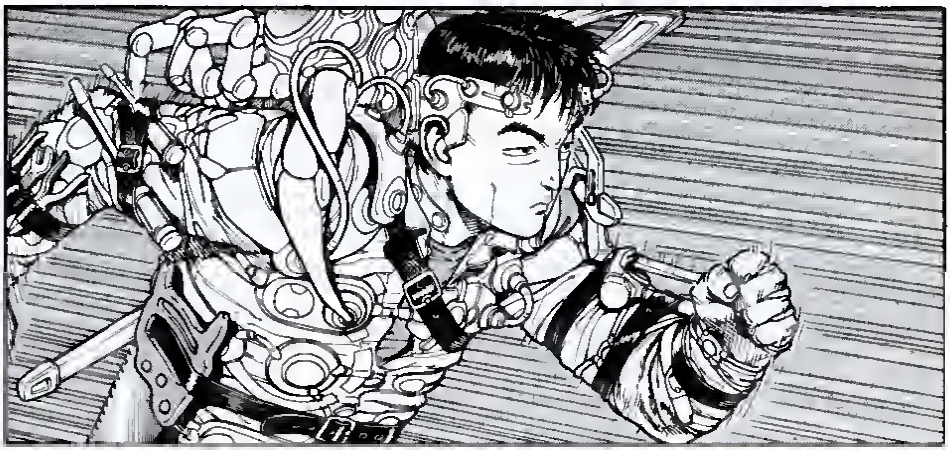

I'VE MADE A LITTLE BOMB.
WHEN THE ONE-HUNDREDTH OF A SECOND READING ON THIS WATCH ROLLS OVER--
--THE BOMB GOES OFF. THE EXPLOSION WILL BEGIN A FEW MINUTES LATER IN SLOW TIME.


A SLOW-MOTION BOMB... BUT THE EXPLOSION'S JUST AS BIG.

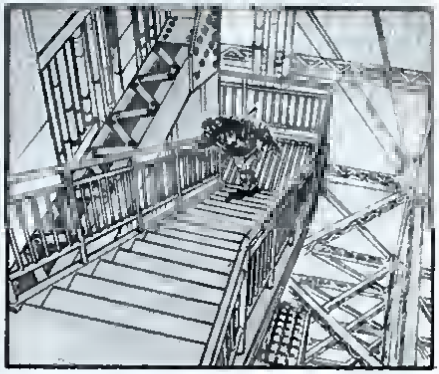


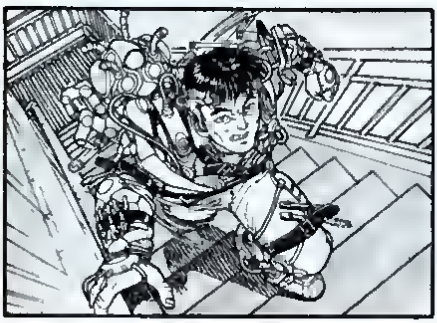

DO YOU WANT TO WATCH HER BODY TEARING SLOWLY TO SHREDS? SHE'LL FEEL EVERY-THING...

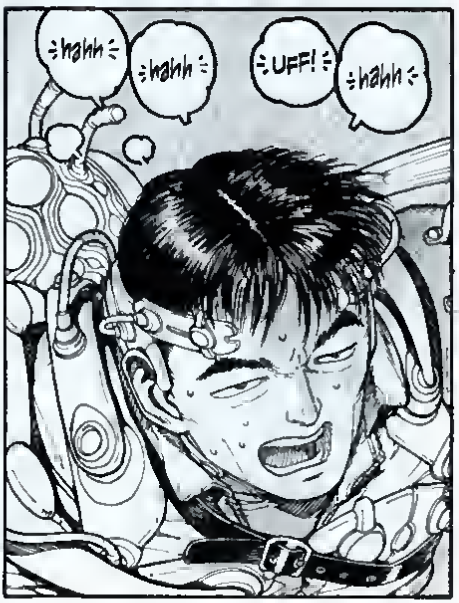


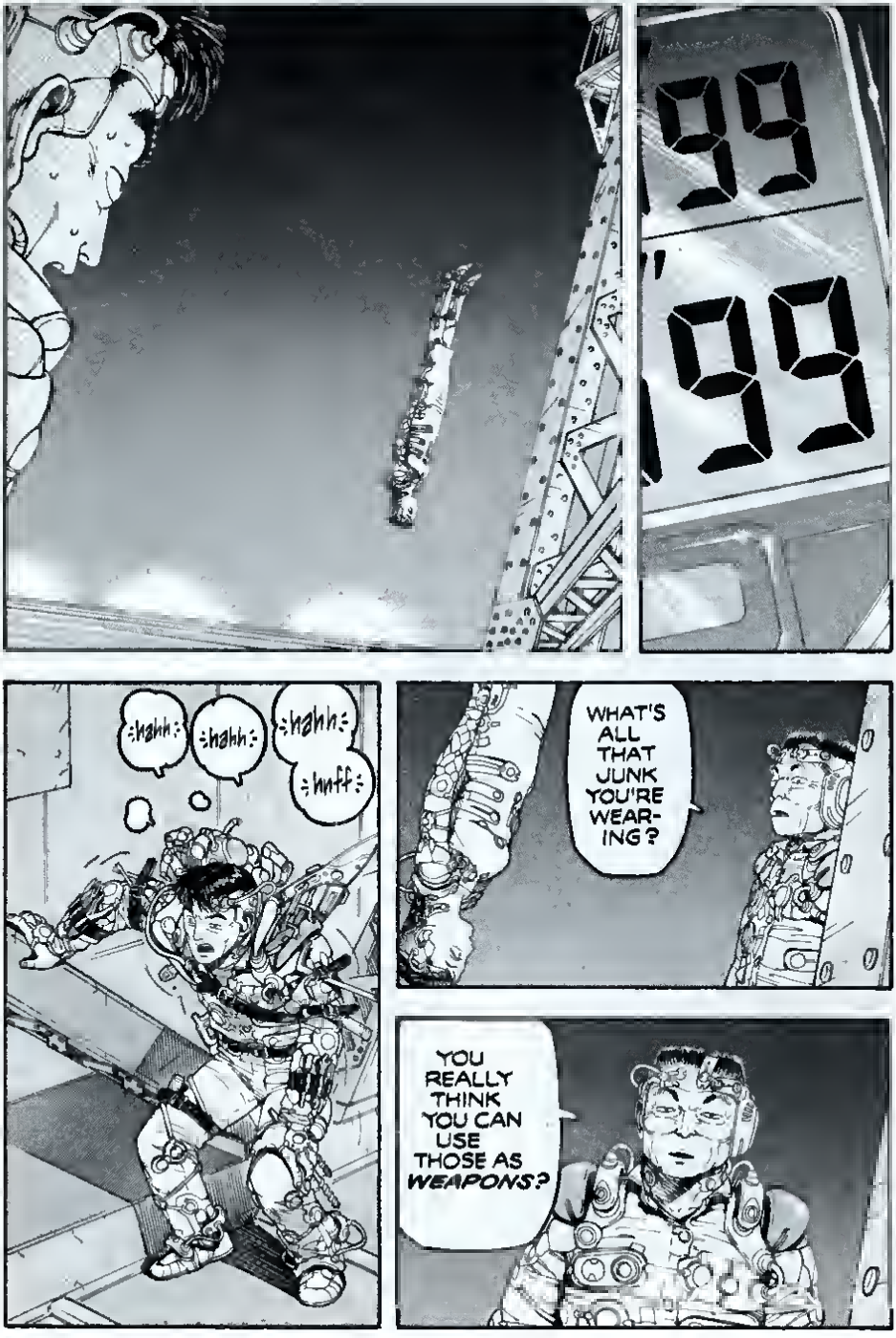


YOU'RE LATE! GET ON UP HERE.






HAHH
HAHH
UFF!
HAHH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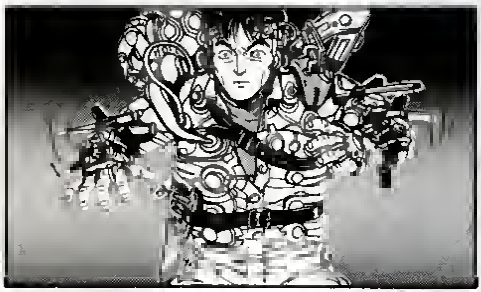
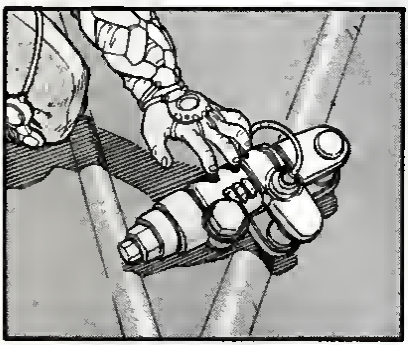
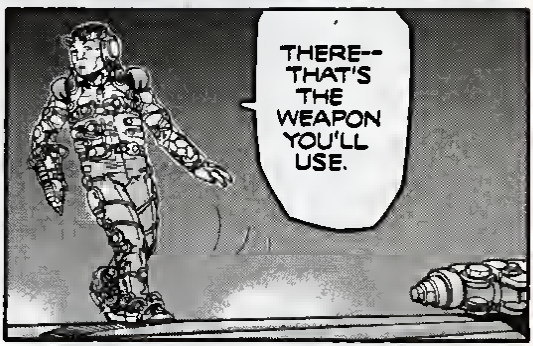
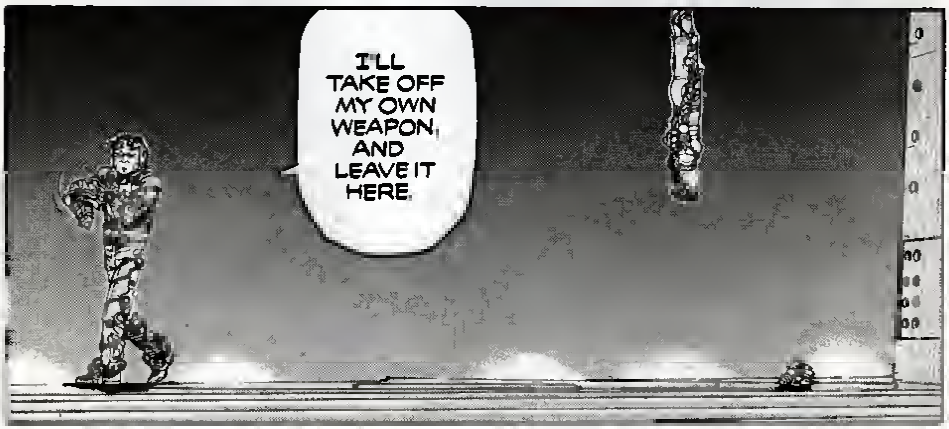
WHAT'S ALL THAT JUNK YOU'RE WEAR-ING?
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN USE THOSE AS *WEAPONS?*

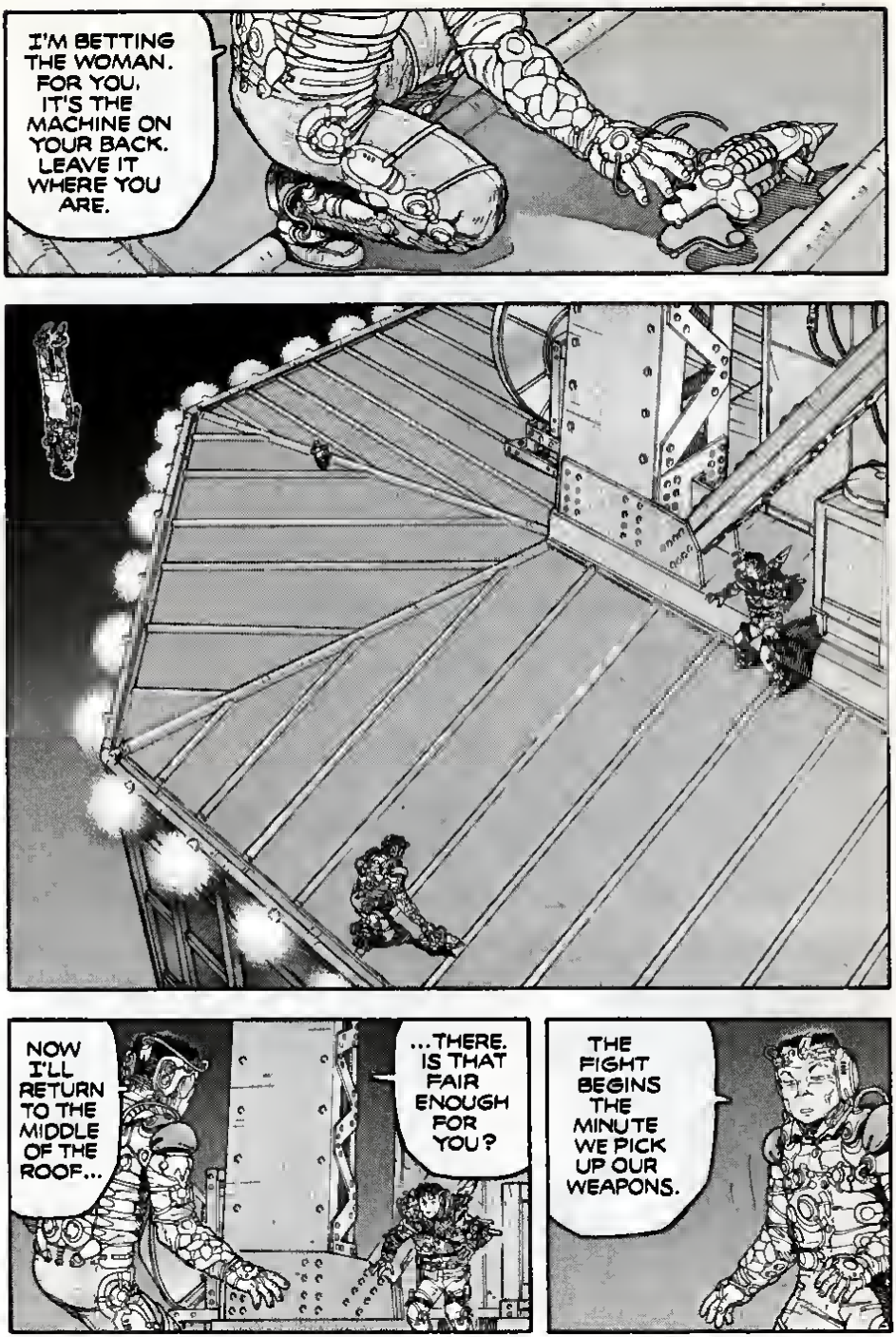


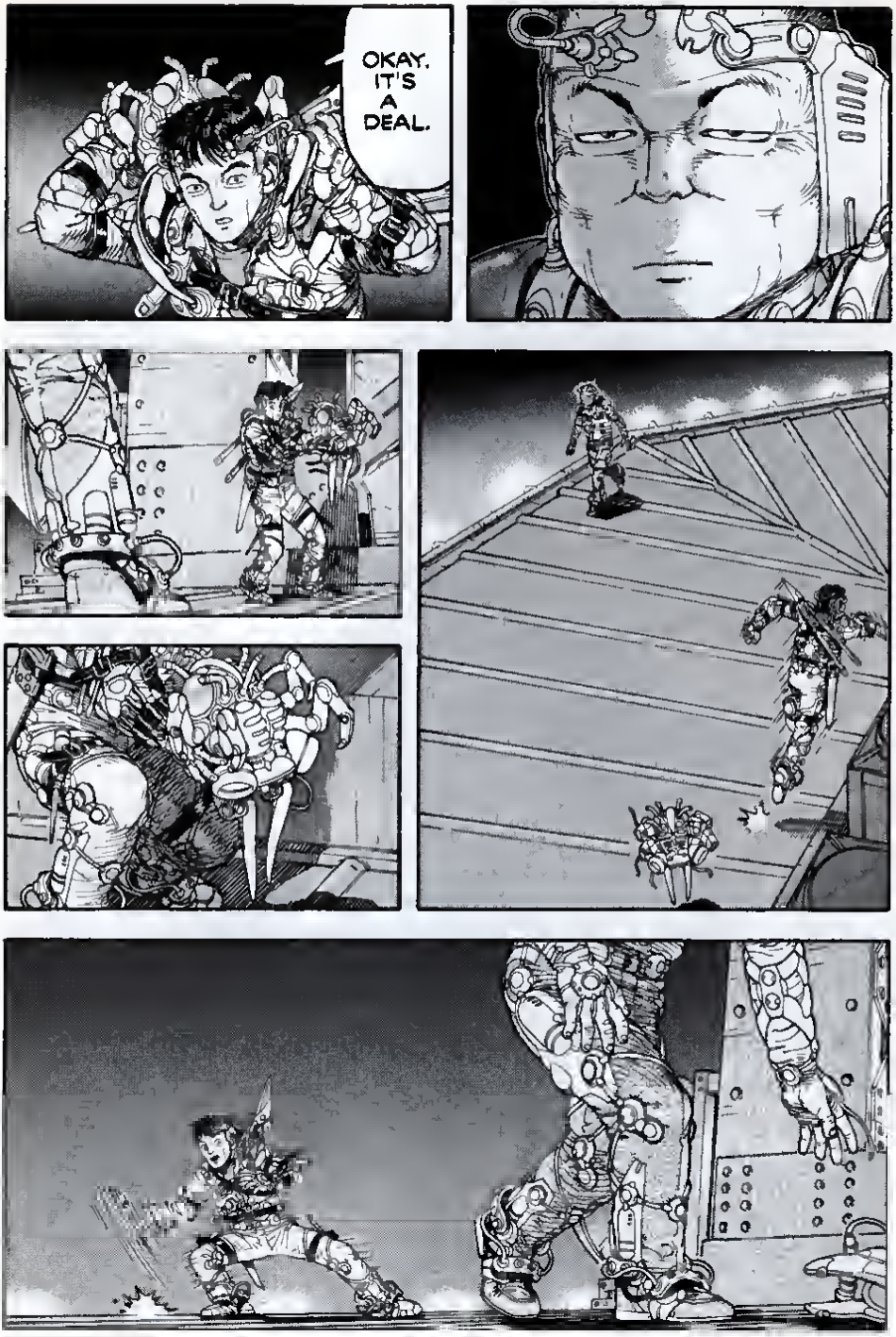
CALM DOWN... FIRST WE MAKE A DEAL.
THEN WE FIGHT.



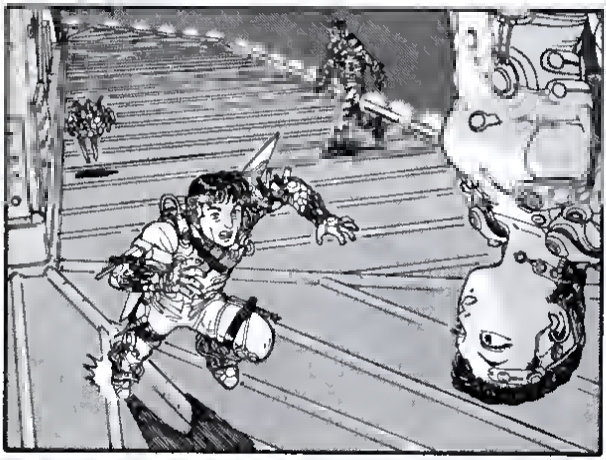

THERE-- THAT'S THE WEAPON YOU'LL USE.

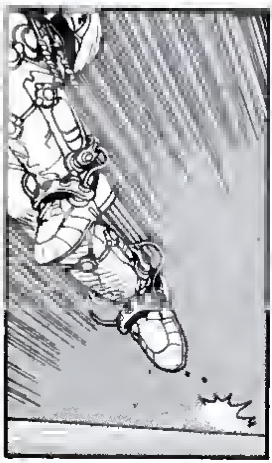

I'LL TAKE OFF MY OWN WEAPON, AND LEAVE IT HERE.

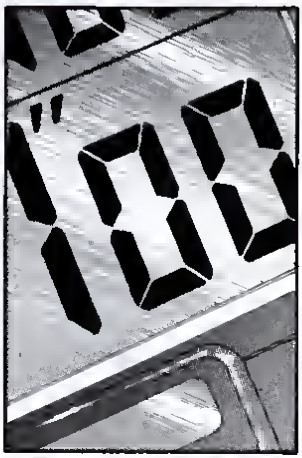

I'M BETTING THE WOMAN. FOR YOU, IT'S THE MACHINE ON YOUR BACK. LEAVE IT WHERE YOU ARE.
NOW I'LL RETURN TO THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOF...
...THERE. IS THAT FAIR ENOUGH FOR YOU?
THE FIGHT BEGINS THE MINUTE WE PICK UP OUR WEAPONS.


OKAY. IT'S A DEAL.

WHA-?!
IT'S A FAKE. I MADE IT MYSELF.
YOU'RE A NATURAL BORN SUCKER, MACHIDA. YOU WALK RIGHT INTO THINGS AGAIN AND AGAIN.







TO BE CONTINUED!